

ABSTRACT

This invention is a system to control a network of distributed power machines. In one preferred embodiment, the system monitors the prices of electricity and hydrocarbon fuels on the open market. When the system determines that electrical power can be generated from a power machine like a fuel cell more cheaply than from a traditional source like coal-fired steam, the system sends an actuation command to the power machine network. The system also considers other factors, including load shedding arrangements, peak shaving arrangements, local rate structures, and the like. In another embodiment, the system includes a means for aggregating electrical power generated by power machines and selling it on an open market. The system also includes means for bill preparation and presentation. The system is capable of operating in several environments, including a traditional environment, a competitive environment, and a competitive environment.

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